matter has been introduced. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
MILAN HAJEK ET AL.

By: _____
Allison C. Collard, Reg. No. 22,532
Edward R. Freedman, Reg. No. 26,048
Attorneys for Applicant

COLLARD & ROE, P.C.
1077 Northern Boulevard
Roslyn, New York 11576
(516) 365-9802
ERF/llv
Enclosure: Exhibit A and an Abstract
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Lisa L. Vulpis
Lisa L. Vulpis

EXHIBIT A

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO
CLAIMS 3, 5, 6, AND 8-10

3. (Amended) The method of heat treatment of glass and natural materials of claim 1 [and 2] characterized in that the glass or natural material to be melted or refined and/or refined contains an inert additive elected from the group comprising carbides, nitrides or borides in an amount from 1 to 100 g preferably 5 to 50 g per 1 kg of the glass or natural material.

5. (Amended) The method of heat treatment glass and natural materials of [any of claims 1 to 4] claim 1 characterized in that the glass material comprises cullet of common waste glass of any kind or glass batches of all types or mixtures of cullet and glass and glass batches and the natural material comprises basalt, granite, marble, andesite, syenite, and other materials absorbing micro wave radiation.

6. (Amended) An apparatus for performing the method of [any claim 1 to 5] claim 1 characterized in that it consists substantially of a micro wave furnace comprising an outer shell (8.2) provided with a cover (10) and an inner shell (8.1) and at least one micro wave generator (1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4) with double emission and a total output from 0.1 to 1 kW per 1 kg of the processed glass or natural material arranged substantially in the intermediate space between the outer shell (8.2) and the inner shell (8.1) and a tank (2) disposed inside the inner shell (8.1).

8. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 6 [or 7] characterized in that the furnace cover (10) is provided with at least one safety switch (9.1 and 9.2) and a fill neck (7) engaging a contactless infrared sensor (5) with a connection for transmitting its signal to a thermometer and controller (6) provided with a microprocessor for the microwave generator control.

9. (Amended) The apparatus of [any claim 6 to 8] claim 6 characterized in that the tank (2) is provided with a side or bottom tapping point (13).

10. (Amended) Apparatus of [any claim 6 to 9] claim 6 characterized in that the outer shell (8.2) is provided with transporting wheels.